

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A medical device for insertion into a body, the device having at least one surface covered by and attached to at least one detachable cover, the cover being detachable from the surface and removed from the body any time after the device has been inserted in the body, wherein said medical device is selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) a catheter;
- (b) a cannula;
- (c) drain;
- (d) a stent;
- (e) a pacemaker; and
- (f) an electrode.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Original) The device according to Claim 1 wherein the surface is an inner surface.

4. (Original) The device according to Claim 1 wherein the surface is an outer surface.

5. (Currently Amended) The device according to Claim 1 having a stack of at least two sequentially detachable covers, each cover being detachable either from the

surface of the device or from the adjacent cover, and removed from the body while the device is within the body.

6. (Original) The device according to Claim 5 wherein the at least two covers are identical.

7. (Original) The device according to Claim 5 having two covers with different properties.

8. (Previously Presented) The device according to Claim 1 wherein the cover is formed from a material selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) rubber;
- (b) silicone rubber;
- (c) polyvinylchloride
- (d) latex;
- (e) woven metal mesh; and
- (f) parylene.

9. (Original) The device according to Claim 1 wherein the cover is formed from a biocompatible material.

10. (Original) The device according to Claim 1 wherein the cover is formed from a non-allergenic material.

11. (Original) The device according to Claim 1 wherein the cover has a smooth surface.

12. (Original) The device according to Claim 1 wherein the cover has a rough surface.

13. (Original) The device according to Claim 5 containing an antibiotic between two adjacent covers.

14. (Previously Presented) The device according to Claim 1, wherein the cover is reversibly attached to a surface by elastic forces in the cover.

15. (Previously Presented) The device according to Claim 1 wherein the cover is detachable from the surface by tearing the cover.

16. (Previously Presented) The device according to Claim 1 wherein the cover is tearable along one or more preformed seams or perforations in the cover.

17. (Original) The device according to Claim 1 comprising a blade slidable over the surface so as to cut the cover and detach the cover from the surface.

18. (Original) The device according to Claim 1 wherein the surface is a surface of a slender shaft associated with the device.

19. (Cancelled).

20. (Original) The device according to Claim 18 wherein further comprising a ring placed at a distal end of the shaft to prevent materials from entering between the cover and the surface.

21. (Previously Presented) The device according to Claim 18 wherein the cover comprises an inner cylindrical shell and an outer cylindrical shell, the inner and outer cylindrical shells each having a distal end and a proximal end, the inner and outer

cylindrical shells being attached to each other at their proximal ends and at their distal ends.

22. - 23. (Cancelled).

24. (Original) The device according to Claim 1 comprising one or more balloons located between the cover and the surface, the cover being attached to the surface when the balloons are inflated, and detached from the surface when the balloons are not inflated.

25. (Original) The device according to Claim 1 in which the cover is impenetrable to microorganisms.

26. (Original) The device according to Claim 1 wherein the cover is impenetrable to water.

27. (Previously Presented) The device according to any one of the previous claims and the cover stores and releases a substance.

28. (Previously Presented) The device according to Claim 2 wherein the cover releases an antimicrobial or anti-fungal compound.

29. (Previously Presented) A medical device for insertion into a body, the device having at least one surface covered by at least one detachable cover, the cover being detachable from the surface and removed from the body while the device is within the body,

wherein the surface is a surface of a slender shaft associated with the device,

wherein the cover has two parallel rows of perforations or seams separating a strip of the cover, the strip being attached at a distal end to a first end of a cord and a second end of the cord being accessible at a proximal end of the device.

30. (Original) The device according to Claim 1 further comprising a cutter slidable along the surface of the device, the cutter being configured to cut the cover when sliding along the surface.

31. (Original) The device according to Claim 1 wherein the cover has a row of perforation such that when a proximal end of the perforation is torn, the cover may be made to slide over the surface in a proximal direction.

32. - 33. (Cancelled).

34. (Previously Presented) A medical device for insertion into a living body, the device having at least one surface covered by and detachably attached to at least one detachable cover, and

means for detaching said cover from the surface and removing said detached cover from the body while the device remains within the body and without damage to the living body.